



**Ben G. Almond** Executive Director-Federal Regulatory Suite 900 1133-21st Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20036 202 463-4112 Fax: 202 463-4198

August 13, 1997

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Mr. William F. Caton Acting Secretary Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street, NW, Room 222 Washington, DC 20554

Competitive Service Safeguards For Local Exchange Carrier Provision of

Commercial Mobile Radio Services, WT Docket 96-162 Ex Parte

Dear Mr. Caton:

RE:

This is to inform you that on August 13, 1997, Charles P. Featherstun and Robert T. Blau, both of BellSouth Corporation along with Gary Epstein of Latham and Watkins, representing BellSouth Corporation met with Chairman Reed E. Hundt, John Nakahata and Tom Boasberg. The attached material was used for discussion purposes.

Please associate this notification and accompanying material with the above referenced docket. Any questions concerning this matter should be directed to the undersigned.

Sincerely,

Ben G. Almond Executive Director

Attachment

cc:

Chairman Reed E. Hundt

John Nakahata Tom Boasberg

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## AUGUST 13, 1997 MEETING WITH CHAIRMAN HUNDT

THE RECORD SHOWS THAT STRUCTURAL SEPARATION REQUIREMENTS ARE NOT NEEDED FOR PCS OR CELLULAR. THEREFORE THE COMMISSION SHOULD ELIMINATE THE CELLULAR STRUCTURAL SEPARATION REQUIREMENT

THE COMMISSION SHOULD ONLY INTERVENE WHERE THE MARKET IS NOT FUNCTIONING AND ONLY TO THE EXTENT NECESSARY TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEM

WHILE WE DO NOT BELIEVE THE MARKETPLACE WILL MALFUNCTION WITHOUT COMMISSION INTERVENTION, WE BELIEVE THAT, IF IT ACTS, THE COMMISSION SHOULD LIMIT ITS INTERVENTION TO NON-STRUCTURAL SAFEGUARDS

AS THE COMMISSION HAS FOUND, SUCH NON-STRUCTURAL SAFEGUARDS ARE LESS COSTLY AND HAVE PROVEN ADEQUATE IN MANY OTHER CONTEXTS

> CPE, INFORMATION SERVICES; PAGING, NON-LEC CELLULAR

INDEED, THE FCC HAS CONDUCTED A COST BENEFIT ANALYSIS IN THE PCS CASE AND EXPRESSLY FOUND THAT NON-STRUCTURAL SAFEGUARDS WILL BE SUFFICIENT PROTECTIONS

WE ARE NOT LIMITED TO MERE THEORY, HOWEVER.
NOT ONLY IS THE RECORD IN THIS CASE VOID OF
ANY BASIS FOR CHANGING THE EARLIER FINDINGS
ABOUT PCS, IT CONTAINS ACTUAL HISTORY
ESTABLISHING THAT THE COMMISSION'S TWO
CONCERNS (POSSIBLE DISCRIMINATION AND CROSS-

CONCERNS (POSSIBLE DISCRIMINATION AND CROSS-SUBSIDY) ARE NOT OCCURRING UNDER THE PCS RULES

THE NUMBER OF SIGNED AND APPROVED INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENTS BETWEEN LECS AND PCS LICENSEES DEMONSTRATES THAT THE LECS ARE OFFERING NONDISCRIMINATORY INTERCONNECTION THE CURRENT COST ACCOUNTING RULES ADEQUATELY AVOID CROSS-SUBSIDY.

IN LIGHT OF THIS RECORD, IT WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE TO IMPOSE NEW, COSTLIER REGULATION ON LECS WHO RELIED ON THE COMMISSION'S EARLIER PCS DECISION IN BIDDING FOR THEIR LICENSES

THE SIXTH CIRCUIT CALLED FOR PARITY BETWEEN PCS AND CELLULAR, SO THE COMMISSION SHOULD TREAT THE BOCS' CELLULAR LIKE PCS

.

THUS, THE COMMISSION SHOULD LIFT THE STRUCTURAL REQUIREMENTS ON BELLSOUTH'S CELLULAR OFFERINGS

THERE IS A NEED TO ACT NOW

WE PLAN ON USING THE D AND E BLOCKS TO FILL
IN SOME CELLULAR AREAS
THIS NECESSITATES OPERATING THEM
TOGETHER
UNDER CURRENT RULES THIS MEANS
HAVING TO OPERATE OUR PCS UNDER THE

IF THE COMMISSION IMPOSES OPTION 2 STRUCTURAL SEPARATION OBLIGATIONS, IT SHOULD ADOPT A SUNSET OF NO MORE THAN TWO YEARS

**CELLULAR RULES** 

THE COMMISSION HAS RECOGNIZED THAT ALL FORMS
OF STRUCTURAL SEPARATIONS IMPOSE THE COSTS
OF LOST EFFICIENCY ON CONSUMERS

GIVEN THE ABSENCE OF A STRONG RECORD REQUIRING COMMISSION INTERVENTION INTO THE MARKET, THE COMMISSION SHOULD REFRAIN FROM IMPOSING COSTLY REQUIREMENTS ANY LONGER THAN NECESSARY

BY IMPOSING A SUNSET, THE COMMISSION WILL AVOID THE COSTS AND DELAY OF A NEW RULEMAKING TO ELIMINATE THE OPTION 2 RULES

## **SUCH A SUNSET:**

WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH CONGRESS'
ACTION IN THE TELECOM ACT;
WOULD CONSERVE COMMISSION RESOURCES AND THOSE OF THE INDUSTRY;
WOULD ADD CERTAINTY TO THE MARKET;
WOULD INCENT PCS COMPANIES TO BRING THEIR SERVICES TO MARKET AS SOON AS POSSIBLE;
WOULD STILL PERMIT THE FCC TO EXTEND THE REQUIREMENT IF SOMEONE COULD ESTABLISH A NEED TO DO SO.